



**DOVER/KENT COUNTY MPO PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2011**

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

Dwight Meyer, Chair  
James Webster

David Fry

Dr. Daniel Houghtaling

**MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING:**

Michael Gumrot, Vice Chair  
Dr. Carlton Cannon  
Prameela Kaza

James Brown  
Phyllis B. Collins

Arley Cooper, Jr.  
Horace Cook

**NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING:**

Rich Vetter, MPO Executive Director  
James Galvin, MPO Staff

Kate Layton, MPO Staff  
Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

The meeting was held at the Harrington Senior Center and was called to order without a quorum.

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS & GUESTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE
3. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Galvin asked that Item #5 be changed to an Action item. Ms. Layton announced that Mr. Kleinburd was unable to attend to give the presentation on DelDOT's noise policy, and asked that Item #8 be removed. She suggested the presentation be added to the December agenda.

4. *ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes Aug. 23, 2011 annual meeting*

This item was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

5. *DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendments – Jim Galvin*

Mr. Galvin explained that, although the PAC voted to recommend Council approve these amendments in August, there had been no information or amendment forms submitted by DelDOT. The forms and information were now available. In addition, without the forms, the 2012 amendments had not been published. The 2011 amendments that were passed in August were submitted with forms and published.

There was discussion concerning the projects:

- SR8/Hazletville Road Connector
- Dover Maintenance Building Lift Replacement/Transit Facilities
- SR1 @ SR30 Grade Separated Intersection, Milford
- Dover Bus Parking Reconfiguration/Transit Facilities



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Mr. Meyer noted that Papen Farms is located along the proposed SR8 connector, and the family is very opposed to the project. The property is currently in the Dept. of Agriculture preservation program, and they will fight to keep it that way.

The SR1/SR30 project is actually in Sussex County, but now within the Milford boundaries after annexation.

Due to a lack of quorum, no formal action could be taken. The consensus was to recommend that Council approve the amendments.

**6. *DISCUSSION ITEM: MPO Bicycle Plan – Rich Vetter***  
**-Silver Lake to Isaacs Branch Connector & Big Oak Park Connector**

Mr. Vetter reported that \$7M has been allocated by the General Assembly for bicycle projects. There are 19 trails statewide, including the Silver Lake to Isaacs Branch Connector. Both DNREC and the City of Dover are in favor of the project. The trail is mostly off-road, and is the top recommendation in the recently adopted Regional Bicycle Plan published by the MPO. PAC members had questions concerning the proposed trail and the current conditions along the route. Mr. Vetter reported that the next few months would involve concept and cost estimates for the project. Public Workshops would be held early next year. Mr. Meyer noted that the DE State University Farm backs up to Big Oak Park. He suggested the MPO contact Richard Cathcart at DSU about how the trail might impact on the property.

**7. *DISCUSSION ITEM: MPO Transportation Studies - Rich Vetter***

**- Transportation Improvement District (TID) Study**

There are eleven (11) growth areas in the Kent County Comprehensive Plan that the County would like to develop transportation plans for. The MPO and the County met with DelDOT in August and drafted a letter of agreement, which is being reviewed by DelDOT. The MPO would assist Kent County in gathering data. This study is on hold right now, awaiting DelDOT's comments on the agreement.

**- Central Kent Study**

The MPO is coordinating with DelDOT on this study, which is an attempt to get "ahead of development" in the area. The area is a "mini" TID that requires a master plan, given that there are 2700 approved lots in a rural area. Part of the area is in Smyrna. PAC members discussed the history of the area and asked about existing agreements with developers.

**- Cheswold Town Center**

Mr. Vetter reported that he met with Cheswold's Planning Commission in September. The study would require matching funds from Cheswold. Due to the town's significant financial and legal issues, this study is on hold.



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### - Smyrna Gateway

Mr. Vetter reported that Smyrna wants to look at their northern “gateway” at the boundary of New Castle County (Duck Creek and US13). They are interested in “branding” the Town, with landscaping, signage and set-backs. This plan is only in the initial stages of development.

### - DTC Studies

The MPO is working with DTC on three studies:

- Park & Ride
- Age restricted communities
- Bus route origin/destination

Mr. Vetter distributed a summary sheet regarding age-restricted communities and whether or not they are served by transit. Depending on future funding, DTC would look at these communities for transit-oriented infrastructure improvements. DTC hoped that this would create discussion about land use, so that communities that needed public transit would be built either on existing routes, or where routes could be established.

### 8. ***PRESENTATION: DelDOT Noise Policy – Robert Kleinburd, DelDOT - REMOVED***

### 9. **Committee Report: Data and Demographics Committee – Jim Galvin**

#### 9.1 ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Updated Employment Projections***

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials sent to the PAC, explaining the methodology and reasons behind the numbers. The Data and Demographics Subcommittee felt that these projections not only conformed to the Population Consortium figures, but were realistic based on current employment and trends in Kent County. He reported that the TAC recommended that Council approve the figures. Mr. Fry had questions about the source of the information used to develop the projections, and how they were allocated throughout the MPO region, which Mr. Galvin answered.

The PAC consensus was to recommend Council approve the employment projections.

### 10. **Committee Report: Priority Process Working Group - Jim Galvin**

Mr. Galvin reported that the working group met twice and was reviewing scoring. The MPO received a call from DelDOT inviting staff to review a new software program, Decision Lens, that could possibly change the priority process. Mr. Galvin said that it was an interesting piece of software, but the working group would still have to discuss criteria for the program. He felt that there were still questions to be answered, but reported that the system has a mechanism to create criteria and weight them based on answers to questions built into the system. At this time, DelDOT is not sure they will purchase the program. Mr. Fry felt that this effort was the biggest issue to come up since he has been a member of the PAC.



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## **11. Staff Report –**

- 11.1 Progress & Financial Reports – Rich Vetter**
- 11.2 Other Project Updates/Activities – MPO Staff**
- 11.3 Correspondence, Publications/Reports/Outreach – K. Layton**
- 11.4 Discussion of December PAC meeting, date and place**

PAC members discussed the December meeting date, December 20, 2011. The members present felt that the date was not a problem and decided to keep the regularly scheduled day, rather than change to an earlier date as has been done in the past.

The meeting was adjourned.